



To learn more about current and future Snohomish County Public Works Road projects, visit the Web site [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search "roads central."

# Update on Traffic Calming Proposal

51st Ave SE – 196th St SE – Jewell Rd

## We Asked for Comments

In July Snohomish County Public Works mailed a newsletter to residents along 51st Avenue SE, 196th Street SE and Jewell Road to discuss cut-through traffic and speeding in the neighborhood. Included in the newsletter was a proposal to install speed bumps to help address the problems along the route. Residents were asked to send us comments and any relevant information to help guide the decision. No speed bumps will be installed at this time.

Before speed bumps are installed in a neighborhood, most of the residents who live along the particular road must agree to the installation. These residents are the ones most affected by the volume and speeds of traffic on the road. The speed bumps are also installed in front of their homes.

## What You Told Us

Sixty-seven e-mails and letters were sent to the communications group of Public Works with comments and suggestions. Approximately 1/3 of these were from drivers who live in other parts of the county who use the road to avoid 35th Avenue SE or because the route is the shortest to their destination and they are able to save gas. Thirty-one of them were opposed to the speed bumps.

Thirty two letters were from residents who live along the route. Twelve residents supported the idea of speed bumps citing concerns about safety for neighborhood residents and the annoyance of traffic volumes and commercial diesel

trucks rumbling through the neighborhood. Twenty residents along the route did not want speed bumps installed. "Please don't penalize us because others are speeding." These and other comments gave us the information needed to make a decision.

## What Has Been Done

Many of the letters we received included suggestions and additional information which we have used. As requested, we contacted the Sheriff's Office, alerted them to the speeding problem and received notice that they'd send officers out for enforcement. Residents may also contact the Sheriff's Office at 425-388-3393 to report speeding. Our Road Maintenance Division was contacted to improve site distance at 180th Street SE and 51st Ave SE by trimming bushes in the right-of-way. We have contacted Planning and Development Services staff to check the patches on 180th Street SE that resulted from development. These may need to be corrected by the developer.

Several residents wrote that the flashing lights at the school and sidewalk on the north side of 196th Street SE have been welcome improvements. Although it was suggested to add more sidewalks and extend 43rd Ave SE to Maltby Road, funding is not available at this time. One of the suggestions was to provide traffic safety education for children, drivers and pedestrians. You can contact Ann Plunkett in the Sheriff's Office at 425-388-3393

to learn about the Neighborhood Watch program.

### Projects in the Works

Several projects in the long-range plan for area roads will change traffic patterns and help alleviate problems on local arterials. The first project will be the widening and addition of turn lanes at the 35th Ave SE/180th St SE intersection during 2009.

An open house is being planned to provide information about the 180th Street SE - 35th Avenue SE project. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 27. An invitation will be mailed to area residents as soon as the date and location are confirmed.

### These Suggested Improvements Are Also in the Works:

- Fix the York Rd/Jewell Rd intersection
- Fix the intersection of 51st and 180th
- Install street lights along 196th St SE
- Widen 180th to four lanes from 35th to SR 527
- Widen 35th

### State or Federal Law Prohibits the County from the following:

- Installing cameras to catch speeders and mail tickets
- Adding weight and axel limits on the road (only permitted if there are structural defects)
- Putting "Local Access Only" signs on 180th (State law requires the road to be open to all vehicles)

### Conditions do not meet State and Federal guidelines for the following:

- Making 43rd - 196th St SE intersection a 4-way stop
- Adding a stop sign eastbound at 196th St SE and 51st Ave SE

Thank you for your comments and suggestions. To learn more about current and future Snohomish County Public Works Road projects, visit the Web site [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search "roads central."

This paper is recycled & recyclable. 8/2008

## Information About Other County Projects

Snohomish County continues to coordinate with transit agencies and other jurisdictions to improve the transportation network for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

To learn more about projects that have been under construction this year and those being planned for following years, you can visit the County's web site, [snoco.org](http://snoco.org), and type "roads" in the search box.

Follow the link to Roads Central. There you will find:

- Road Projects Information
- Road Construction Updates
- Customer Service Counter for Public Works
- Road Resurfacing and Chip Seal Programs
- Seasonal and Emergency Road Closures
- County Road Atlas

Tina Hokanson  
Public Works Communications  
[transportation@snoco.org](mailto:transportation@snoco.org)

